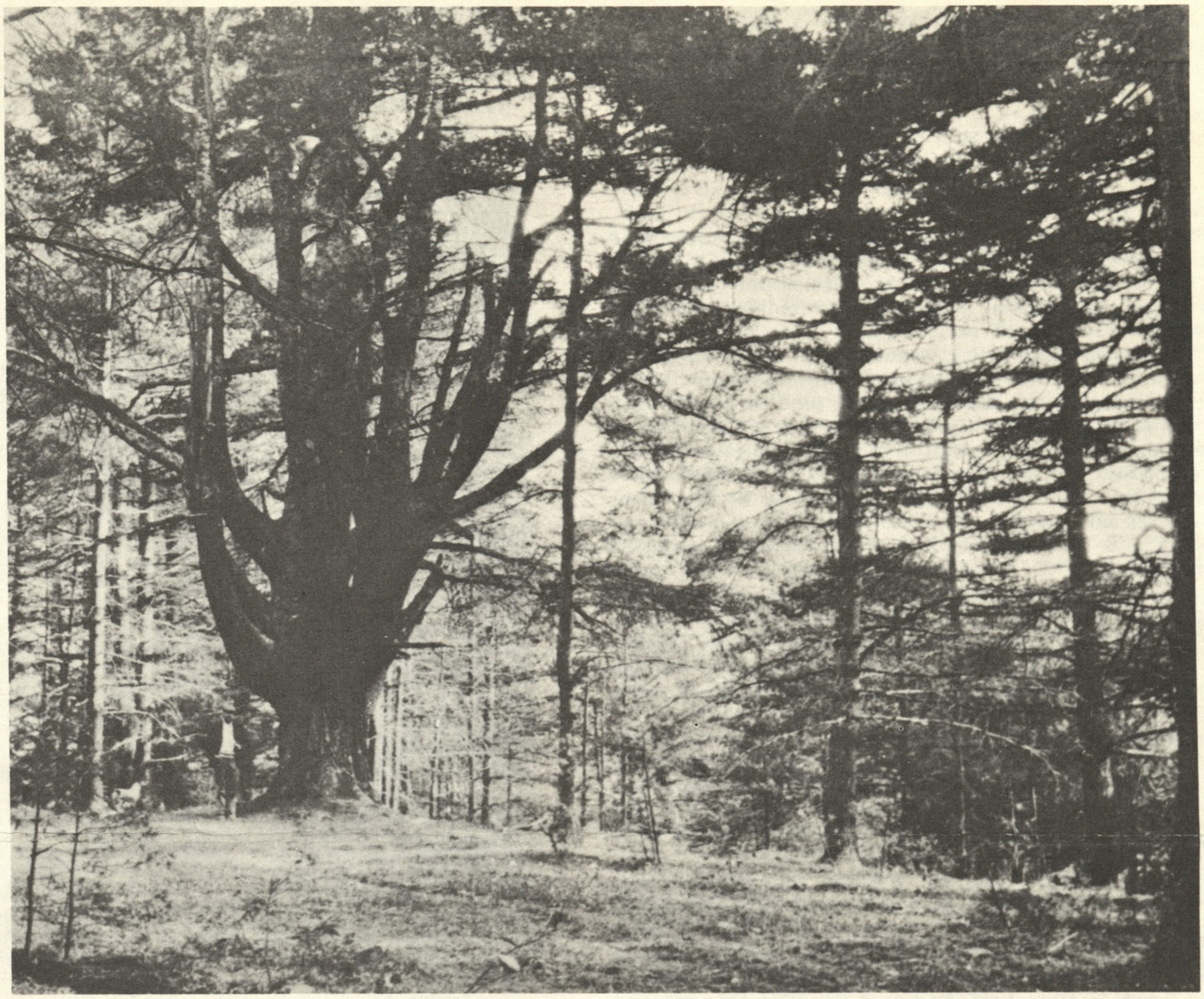
The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter

From the Land

JANUARY 1976



1890 Photo of Carrington Phelps with Colony Pine of Phelps Research Area, Colebrook

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THE NAME OF THE GAME

Connecticut Chapter's Acquisitions in 1975

The Connecticut Chapter accepted 17 new acquisitions during the months of 1975 for a total addition of 941 acres to its preserve systems. The new acquisitions are in 14 townships across the state with a total valuation of $2,438,870.

There were 14 gifts of land. One of these was an easement (a nonprofitable interest in the land). Three were purchased. 10 of the acquisitions are additions to present preserves, 3 are new acquisitions and 3 are transfers - out to Land Trusts. One was acquired through The Nature Conservancy's governmental coop. program and transferred to the Town of Bolton. Transfers are always effected with the prior knowledge and agreement of the land donors.

As of year end 1975 The Connecticut Chapter holds 95 preserves in 49 towns totalling 9,219 acres.

Helen G. Altschul Preserve, Stamford. 150 acres. A gift from Mrs. Frank Altschul consisting of Stamford's largest undeveloped area. Mature black and white and red oak forests, streams, ponds, marshes and abundant wildlife make up this Mianus River area downstream from the Conservancy's oldest standing acquisition.

Benedict Nature Preserve, New Milford. 45 acres. An acquisition of the Weantinoge Heritage Trust made possible through a Nature Conservancy low interest loan. The attainment of this forested ravine is part of the Conservancy's effort to assist other land preservation groups in local natural area protection activities.

Bolton Lake Property, Bolton. 28 acres. This land was purchased by The Nature Conservancy through its governmental cooperation program for the Town of Bolton. This open space is traversed by a spring fed stream coursing gently down to the Bolton Lake shore.

Brant Property, Ridgefield. 7 acres. A donation from Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brant. This acreage of the Pumping Station Swamp was given through The Nature Conservancy to Ridgefield's local trust, The Land Conservancy of Ridgefield. Deed restrictions and reverters were placed in the deed as it passed from TNC to the Trust.

Burnham Brook Preserve, Lefebvre Addition, East Haddam. 20 acres. Acquiring lands contiguous to Conservancy preserves has always been a prime objective of the Connecticut Chapter. Through such assemblages the Conservancy can create buffer zones for its areas or extend the boundaries to include more of a particular habitat of plant or animal species. The donation of Mrs. Gertrude Lefebvre and Miss Edith Lefebvre increases the Burnham Brook preserve to 119 acres. The preserved area forms a significant and central portion of the Burnham Brook watershed and is part of a planned effort to protect the entire watershed of the spring-fed, year round brook.

Byram River Gorge Preserve, IBM Addition, Greenwich. 6 acres. International Business Machines has donated this land on the Byram River to increase the Conservancy's ownership along the river to 132 acres. IBM's gift is significant not only as an addition to a Conservancy preserve, but also because of the cooperative effort between the business community and TNC in land preservation activity.

Creamer Preserve. Granby. 40 acres. Mrs. Elizabeth Creamer gave this woodland through the Conservancy to the Granby Land Trust. In the transfer, the Conservancy placed natural area restrictions in the deed and maintains a reversionary interest in the property through right-of-entry or reverter deed language.

Gan Katan Preserve, Stamford. 10 acres. An area of swamp and upland acres, donated by Mrs. Carolyn L. Gaines, wife of past Chapter Chairman Tom Gaines. As is the usual practice in acquiring an area for preservation, the Conservancy has set up a local Preserve Management Committee to formulate a stewardship program for the area.

Griswold Point, Old Lyme. 11 acres. Through this purchase, the Conservancy has acquired an entire mile long sand spit at the mouth of the Connecticut River known as Griswold Point. The Conservancy was first involved on the Point in 1973 through a donation of Dr. Matthew Griswold of a one-half undivided interest in the sand spit. The purchase of the second half interest from other members of the Griswold family assures the preservation of this important coastal area. The Point was recognized as a unique ecological unit in the Connecticut Natural Areas Inventory and has long been known as a haven and nesting site for shore and migrating birds. The Griswold Point Preserve and its productive salt marshes and mud flats were one of ten preserves studied this summer through the Connecticut Chapter's Student Internship Program.

Lord's Cove, Lyme. Cooper Addition: 28 acres; Harrower Addition: 11 acres. Richard Cooper and Mrs. Norman Harrower have given priceless additions to the Lord's Cove Area on the Connecticut River at Lyme. The two additions increase the preserve to 115 acres.

Hugh A. Marshall Preserve, Ledyard. 100 acres. Dr. David Marshall has given these woodlands in the name of his young son, Hugh, an active naturalist. The new gift is contiguous to The Nature Conservancy's Pike Preserve and increases the total area to 258 acres.

Phelps Research Area, Colebrook. 344 acres; Egler Property Addition. 50 acres. This new preserve is one of the Conservancy's largest projects in Connecticut. The initial gift of 344 acres from Mr. and Mrs. John Blum is the effort by Mrs. Blum's family to see her ancestral land remain in one piece and protected. Her family, the Phelps, settled North Colebrook and this particular parcel of land has been in one ownership since 1799. The area has been well known to scientists and will be used as a limited research area. Several days after the Blum donation, Dr. Frank Egler, a long-time friend of the Conservancy, gave 50 acres immediately contiguous to the Blum gift, increasing the preserved area to 394 acres.

Rock Spring Wildlife Refuge, Scotland. Shoemaker Addition. 25 acres. David Shoemaker has given this 25 acre addition to the Rock Spring Wildlife Refuge to increase the Preserve to 343 acres. The major section of the refuge was established by Mr. Shoemaker in 1974 through a gift to the Conservancy.

Silas Hall Pond, Winchester. Webster Addition. 55 acres. Mr. Bethuel Webster had established through a gift in 1969 the first section of the preserve which now with the addition totals some 93 acres of upland hardwood forest and a bog-pond complex. Recent beaver activity on the preserve has not adversely affected the northern red spruce floating bog.

Pattagansett Marshes, East Lyme. 11 acres. The gift of an easement addition to the Pattagansett Marshes Preserve was made to The Nature Conservancy by the Black Point Association of East Lyme. The easement brings the Chapter's preserved area to 78 acres. The addition was recommended by the Connecticut Chapter and by the Yale Site Evaluation Reports. The area contains a rare dynamic dune system.

These recent acquisitions, as with all preserves acquired by The Nature Conservancy, are being held in their natural state - in perpetuity. The Chapter projects that within the first few months of 1976 the 100th preserve will have been acquired in the State of Connecticut. It will be a fine natural heritage gift for our nation's Bicentennial and for future generations 200 years - and beyond - from today.

Charles L. Scott, II
Executive Director

Emily Ford Photo

Swamp Area, Helen G. Altschul Preserve, Stamford

THE ALASKA NATIVES'

44 MILLION ACRE "ACQUISITION"

One summer afternoon in the Pastime Cafe on Fairbanks' Cushman Street, I was witness to the meeting of two cultures. Next to me sat a white construction worker in his late thirties, weary after a day's work which might have begun at 4 am. On his other side sat an Eskimo who looked considerably older. I overheard these two men, apparent strangers at the start of their conversation, begin talking very familiarly about Point Barrow. As it turned out, both had grown up in this lonely village of some two thousand Inupiaq Eskimos on the northern tip of the North American continent. Only when the construction worker mentioned that his mother had been the Episcopalian missionary and English teacher in Barrow did the two really strike common ground. For the elderly Eskimo then recalled his old teacher's name and visiting her home many afternoons after school.

As I walked back to work I mused over the coincidence in the Pastime Cafe and how the relationship between Natives and white men in Alaska had changed. When the state was purchased from Russia in 1867, a pledge had been made to honor the aboriginal claims to land. This was reiterated in the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959 but still not acted on. Congress was finally motivated, however, by the discovery of the massive oil field which lay beneath Prudhoe Bay in the summer of 1968. A pipeline and its accompanying haul road had to be constructed to transport the crude oil 800 miles south to a warm-water port on the Gulf of Alaska. Native leaders from around the state quickly saw their opportunity to force the federal government to make good on its promise of over a century ago. They formed a federation and established a strong Washington lobby which had soon convinced Congress that overlapping Native, state, and federal claims to Alaska's land had to be settled before the Secretary of the Interior could legally withdraw a wide swath of land bisecting the state for the pipeline right-of-way.

The outcome was ANCSA--the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, signed into law by President Nixon on December 18, 1971. This established twelve Native regional corporations and granted them the authority to select some 44 million acres of land,* or nearly one-eighth of the state's total surface area, to which they would later be given title. The revenues from any development undertaken on this land will be shared evenly by all Natives in the region as stockholders in their corporation. The regional corporations in turn bequeathed slightly more than half of their acquisitions to the 210-odd Native villages in the state. The intention here was to create a buffer zone to protect the villages from encroaching developmental pressures so they could continue their subsistence lifestyle while slowly reverting to a cash-based economy.

So now Alaska's Natives are receiving patents to prove they legally own the land which they have used for centuries. The traditional hunting and fishing rights are no longer valid. Many Natives are dissatisfied with the generosity displayed by Congress in settling their land claims, but very few would have preferred a reservation system similar to that in the "lower 48" states.

The Native corporations have some money too--nearly a billion dollars from the federal treasury--to give them some capital for investment purposes. One corporation has already financed a large hotel, while another is developing a vacation resort. Once they receive their land and it is assessed, not only will they figure prominently on **Fortune's** list of the top five-hundred corporations, but also be among the largest private landholders in the free world.

But their time is limited even with their 44 million acres of land. They are protected from the unscrupulous dealings of entrepreneurs for only twenty years--until 1991--after which the stockholders may sell their shares and their land. It is a dangerous experiment. The decisions concerning land-use which the regional corporations make in the next decade will most likely determine the welfare of the state's Native population for the next century. And it is quite a challenge for a people whose main contact with the white man only twenty years ago was through missionaries and fur trappers.

Carl A. Propes, Jr., a Chapter volunteer, is a senior at Yale University. He spent the last year in Alaska working as a land use planner for a Native corporation.

*Ed. Note: Connecticut's land area is about 3 million acres.

Line Drawings by Margaret LaFarge

WHO MINDS THE STORE

A POTPOURRI OF VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF IN THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER OFFICE

Have you wondered who is behind those eternally (and infernally) recurring requests for "your assistance" to The Nature Conservancy? Or did you automatically picture a large, humming, computer-like monster equipped with the latest in check-chomping equipment and programmed to give you approximately six weeks' rest between mailings. It may surprise you to find that the responsibility lies with a small, dedicated group, equally as hard-pressed as any of you, but, nonetheless, determined to pry from you every extra penny to further the Conservancy's works. Obviously, we (and you) are drawn together by our desire to preserve natural areas, for ourselves and for our fellow creatures, and for our descendants and theirs. Apart from this shared interest, we come in all shapes and kinds. This article will serve as a brief introduction to TNC's office staff, with the hope that you will want to reciprocate by dropping in to see for yourself.

The official (remunerated) members of the staff are Director Charles L. Scott II, Assistant Director Arthur B. Weissman, and Secretary Marion Hitchcock.

Charles Scott, "Scotty," when asked for a few biographical facts, talked nonstop about The Conservancy for 20 minutes. That interview resulted in a separate article and a desperate search of the files for a few notes of personal interest.

Scotty, a 1971 graduate of Lake Forest College, came to TNC in 1972 as its first salaried staff member. He quickly realized that contrary to popular belief, the 80-hour work week was not a thing of the past. The search for new quarters, the determination to expand the role of the Conservancy, the lack of other paid assistance in the office, all combined to demand the utmost in commitment. Luckily for the Conservancy, Scotty is committed. So is his wife, a New Haven teacher who has to put up with many evening and weekend absences because so much Conservancy work has to be done then when land donors and preserve management committees have hours to spare from their own full-time responsibilities. Scotty does not have to worry about what to do in his spare time; he does not have any. Scotty lives in a 1743-built Colonial house in North Guilford with his wife and 7-year old daughter.

The well-qualified Assistant Director is Art Weissman. Art is a Renaissance man, 1975 style. Adept at fencing, an accomplished pianist who plays in chamber groups, Art majored in English at Harvard and went on to receive a Master's in Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences. He has taught school in Switzerland, worked in a kibbutz in Israel, and driven a cab in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At The Conservancy, Art directs Preserve Management and administers the Student Internship Program, along with many other duties. Art lives within walking distance of the office so he does not have far to go when he finishes his workday. (It is hoped that he enjoys late-night strolls.)

Marion Hitchcock is a godsend. The amount of office work generated by the Conservancy was overwhelming the part-time secretary and the volunteers. The volunteers, masters of understatement, suggested to Scotty that a full-time secretary might be useful. The result has been gratifying to all. Marion enjoys working with her hands and this job gives her plenty of opportunity. (At times she might like to wrap those hands around a neck, when Scotty drops a report to be typed on her desk, 15 minutes before quitting time, with the words, "Before you go, could you just...") Marion says that her favorite duty is opening the mail that contains checks and depositing them in the bank. Her daughter and son are in high school and college, so Marion now has time to pursue an interest in land preservation which began when she and her husband participated in the Madison Land Trust. (Marion's husband is an entomologist and the Director of Pesticide Compliance for Connecticut D.E.P.) Marion is a gardener and an antique collector who lives in Haddam near the Connecticut River in a mini-orchard of apple trees.

Volunteers Carolyn Wheeler and Joan Davis in Chapter's Middletown Office

The remaining personnel can truly be said to be in it for the sheer joy of it. Alden Taylor is the resident Chairman of the Board who calls himself the Chief Volunteer. He spends about three days a week in the office (except during sailing season!). Alden sails out of Sakonnet, R.I. and his other interests include Saving the Bay (Narrangansett, of course), land trust, and five children. As a special Conservancy in Suburbia experiment, he is allowing his lawn in Farmington to return to its natural state. The resulting savings in energy have been meaningfully applied to studies in marine wind transportation.

Luckily for TNC, Joan Davis had just "retired" from her position as Administrative Assistant to an AMF executive vice president. The first to respond to the call for volunteers to the newly-relocated Conservancy office in Middletown, Joan's business experience was invaluable in organizing the new office and in accomplishing the highly successful 1975 membership drive. Also extremely useful to the Conservancy were her talents in commandeering whatever the office needed. Joan is a Haddam resident who is presently involved in turning her wild area into a landscape (a variation on Alden's Conservancy in Suburbia experiment). Joan also enjoys weaving and walks in the woods.

Ellen Hall often arrives in the office having run up four flights of stairs, two steps at a time. But no collapsing in a heap results, for Ellen is a confirmed jogger who regularly runs two miles, thus keeping in good condition for the many chores around the "farm" she shares with her physician husband, horse, dogs, chickens, cat, and huge resident bird-feeder population. Ellen is a Smith graduate, a biologist who has worked at Wellesley and at Princeton, and who early learned the key to success. When asked if she could type, she said, "No." So, Ellen does everything else (and Joan and I do the typing). One of her projects has been to assemble the preliminary ecological site surveys on 48 preserves which were done by students of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences under Dr. Thomas Siccama's direction.

Another volunteer, T.D. Whitin, who lives and gardens in Haddam, has been assisting in setting up a preserve management library of scientific materials and publications. Another Smith graduate, T.D. majored in biology and is proud to relate that in 1947 she took a course entitled "Taxonomy and Ecology," a fact which definitely establishes Smith in the forefront of the environmental movement. T.D.'s garden is worth noting; inspired by the book, **How to Have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back,** T.D. swears that it works (and she doesn't).

Along with being our student volunteer, Steve McNutt is a very busy Wesleyan junior, a major in Earth and Environmental Sciences, a member of the cross country team, treasurer of Wesleyan's Committee on Environmental Awareness, and a Head Resident Advisor to three dormitories. Steve is a member of the Spiderweed Preserve Management Committee and has organized groups of interested students for visits to Spiderweed (including clean-up details). Steve has also been working on the development of overall classification schemes in Connecticut, through an integrated approach with special interest in geological aspects of land use control. Steve is from Avon and hopes to receive a National Science Foundation grant to study land use in the lower Connecticut River Valley.

Bruce Jacobson was the first person to hold the position of Director of Preserve Management. He is now acting as a consultant to TNC, having been borrowed away by the Housatonic Council of the Girl Scouts of America to be their land manager. Bruce majored in Resource Conservation at the University of Montana and has a wide range of interests, from antiques and auctioneering to beekeeping to square dancing and singing.

We are fortunate to have a volunteer with photographic skills, Emily Van Orden Ford. Emily's experience working with strange and exotic animal species has proved helpful in her work with the TNC staff. Emily, who majored in biology at Hollins College, took a year's sabbatical to observe wildlife on the Serengeti plains of Tanzania. Along with French and Spanish, she speaks Swahili.

That brings us to the final name of the list and it's mine, Carolyn Wheeler. I have been helping out generally around the office and enjoying the company of all the aforementioned. My interests include reading and jogging and a concern for the survival of tigers, whales, and black-footed ferrets. If only we could introduce some of each to our Connecticut preserves. That would really be biological diversity.

Carolyn Wheeler

THE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Summer - 1975

The Connecticut Chapter initiated a pilot student internship program during the summer of 1975. The pilot program involved ten students from four universities, who did research on eleven Conservancy preserves. Because of the success of the pilot program, the Chapter is planning to expand the program in the coming three years.

The student internship program was conceived with three goals in mind. As an educational and scientific institution, The Conservancy encourages the use of its preserves for biological and ecological study. The internship program lays a more formal basis for this kind of work, which has been pursued by university students at various times in the past. By providing research areas with unusual habitats and of unique ecological significance, The Conservancy affords students of natural history the opportunity to apply their knowledge in actual field situations.

More generally, the student internship program is designed to promote a working relationship between The Nature Conservancy and the universities and colleges of the state. The program is funded partly by matching grants between The Conservancy and universities, and partly from other sources. As one partner in a matching grants program to aid student research, The Conservancy can participate actively with universities in promoting environmental education. Indeed, it is planned that the summer program will lead to a more permanent year-round program of research projects on Conservancy preserves.

A third purpose of the student internship program is to develop a means for inventorying the Conservancy's natural areas. Preserves in the Connecticut Chapter are managed by local committees, but wise management decisions cannot be made unless the natural characteristics of an area are known. Natural features such as geology, soils, and vegetation, and human use patterns such as trails or roads are critical elements of the total ecological evaluation of a preserve. Each preserve in last summer's program was inventoried for these and other basic ecological variables.

One unusual feature of the program was the degree of guidance and supervision provided. Students worked under professors in their discipline who acted as research advisors, helping to direct the course of study. In addition, The Nature Conservancy hired a coordinator to keep the program running smoothly and effectively. The coordinator and now Assistant Director of the Chapter, Arthur Weissman, is a graduate of Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where he studied land management and land-use planning. He was responsible for coordinating the different studies, arranging schedules, and organizing the results of the work. Thus, he was in constant touch with the students.

The ten student interns came from a variety of disciplines, including geology, botany, ecology, entomology, and chemistry. They worked as an interdisciplinary team, and met at regular two-week intervals to exchange information. Four were graduate or post-graduate students; in several instances their work will be used toward a doctoral thesis. Several of the remaining undergraduate student interns planned to incorporate their summer research in a senior thesis or special project in the coming academic year.

The two geologists from Wesleyan, Mary Barrett and Wendy Silver, worked under the guidance of Dr. W. Dupre. They monitored water quality on the preserves, and in addition mapped their surficial and bedrock geology. Beth Penney, whose advisor was Dr. G. S. Horne of Wesleyan, did an in-depth study of the water quality and chemical sedimentology of Lord's Cove Preserve in Lyme. With a major in environmental chemistry, she was well-suited for studying the heavy metal concentrations in the preserve.

Three botanists did detailed vegetative mapping of two preserves. James Gillespie and John McDonald, under the guidance of Dr. T. Webster of the University of Connecticut, studied vegetative communities, and particularly ferns, on Messenger Preserve in Granby. Lawrence Hollander from Connecticut College studied vegetation at Rock Spring Wildlife Refuge in Scotland under Dr. R. Goodwin.

Two doctoral students from University of Connecticut, Veronica Picchi and Diane Calabrese, made an entomological inventory of Pattagansett Marshes Preserve in East Lyme and Iron Mountain Reservation in Kent, under the guidance of Dr. J. A. Slater. Bruce Kershner, a doctoral candidate from the same university under Dr. A. W. H. Damman, studied vegetative communities and plant ecology at four preserves in Litchfield County (Iron Mountain and Currie Sanctuary in Kent; Ballyhack and Cathedral Pines in Cornwall), and at Still Pond Preserve in Greenwich. Finally, Evan Griswold, a graduate of Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, did plant ecology studies at Lord's Cove Preserve, Pattagansett Marshes Preserve, and Griswold Point Preserve; in addition, he studied human use patterns on Griswold Point and their effect on the beach ecosystem.

The results of the summer's studies were presented in both written and pictorial form. Wherever possible, information was transferred to base maps of a common scale, which were drawn by a professional draftsman on reproducible mylar and sepia prints. For each preserve in the program there is a packet of five or six maps, showing surficial and bedrock geology, soils, vegetative communities, special features, and surrounding property ownership. In this way, the local preserve management committees are given most of the relevant ecological information in a form that is easily readable, precise, and readily understandable. In addition, a detailed written report supplements the maps, and ties together much of the information in the studies for use in management decisions. For example, by examining soils, slope, and vegetation, a particularly fragile area might be identified; or a rare plant species might be discussed, with suggestions for its preservation and management.

The student internship program has benefits for all parties concerned. As a matching grants program, it provides universities with an additional source of revenue to fund student research. As a continuing program for research, it would be a logical channel for thesis work or special projects at all levels, for it provides students with outdoor laboratories, including some of the choicest ecosystems in the state.

The value of the student internship program in providing base inventory information for preserve management has encouraged the Chapter to expand the program for the coming three years. Plans are to have 20 students working on 18 preserves each summer for the next three years. Students will represent a wide range of disciplines, in order to adequately survey the human and cultural as well as biological aspects of the preserves. There will be botanists, geologists, hydrologists, wildlife biologists, ornithologists, historians, and students in environmental education and social studies. It is hoped that all Consevancy preserves in Connecticut will have base ecological inventories by 1978. This will greatly facilitate the writing of Master Plans for preserve management.

Arthur B. Weissm
Assistant Direc

Student Interns Assemble at Spiderweed Preserve

THE JUNIPER HILL PROGRAM

AND "BIOLOGICAL SOUP"

In 1973, The Nature Conservancy offered to Saint Margaret's McTernan School (K-12) the use of the are known as the Juniper Hill Preserve.

The Preserve consists of about 140 acres of upland bog, a hillside of typical Connecticut forest, which includes two species of pines, hemlocks, red and sugar maples, a number of species of oaks, and chestnut (yes, real chestnut--there is an area where the ground is covered with chestnut burs, and several large trees are standing, some of them alive, others obviously consumed by the blight which hit these woods several decades ago). These all can be seen while walking previously well-constructed trails through the Preserve.

The terms under which we operate are: 1) it is to be used for educational purposes, and 2) no changes are to be made, i.e., no trailmaking, no carpentry, no cutting of trees or shrubs, no fires, no hunting, no fishing, etc. Collecting for study is allowed and controlled through a permit obtained through the Connecticut Chapter.

The bog occupies most of the area. It is only a few inches deep, and it is dotted with clumps of sedges and various shrubs. The conspicuous and charming aspect of the area is enhanced by the thousands of water lillies, both **nymphaea** and **nelumbo**, which cover the area near the entrance. Actually, other acid-loving aquatic plants are conspicuous there too, such as **utricularia**, **myriophyllum**, **anarcharis**, and numerous and varied algae. The water is a veritable "biological soup," teeming with myriads of microscopic organisms.

The wooded swamps which lie beyond the dam (originally created by beavers) are typically rich with various mosses, ferns, violets, caltha, anemone, ginseng, wild geranium, ladies' slippers, and a number of liliaceous species.

The area is a fine, clean, unspoiled sample of several kinds of habitats. Our problem is to study it withou changing it by trampling or cutting; in fact, by keeping it in its natural condition.

(continued on page 8)

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THE BEGINNINGS

The Connecticut Chapter - And How It Grew

Fifty-eight years ago, a group of scientists concerned with the void in natural area preservation gathered themselves together under the banners of the Ecological Society of America and established a special committee to pursue the problem. The year was 1917. Three decades later, the committee had outgrown the parent to become a separate entity: the Ecologists Union. This Union, in turn, became The Nature Conservancy (in 1950), the non-profit, publicly supported association we know today. The Conservancy became incorporated in 1951.

The stripling conservation organization began experimenting with land acquisition as a means of natural area preservation. In 1953 some spirited and dedicated Connecticut members undertook the Conservancy's first independent project: Mianus River Gorge, located just over the state line in Westchester County, New York. Later, Connecticut members, working with the Natural Areas Committee of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association began investigating natural areas in Connecticut to be acquired for preservation.

Land held by the Conservancy in Connecticut is owned by a non-profit corporation set up by the national office and founding Connecticut members. The name of that corporation, The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut Inc., was set up in 1958 to hold land on a tax exempt basis.

Two years later on May 14, 1960, on a beautiful Saturday morning, an organizational meeting of Connecticut Conservancy members was held at the Osborn Botanical Laboratory on the Yale University campus. The purpose was to expand the national organization's objectives by setting up a Connecticut Chapter. In a letter sent by Dr. William Niering of Connecticut College to all Connecticut members he said "The time has come to consider forming a state Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. A group of our members has already requested that we take such a step." Dr. Richard Goodwin, also of Connecticut College and past President of the national organization, was elected on that May morning as Connecticut Chapter's first Chairman. On that day, Connecticut members of The Nature Conservancy also became members of its Connecticut Chapter.

The Connecticut Chapter grew prodigiously in the 1960's. Starting with three preserves in 1960, the Chapter acquired 14 projects by 1966 (more than any other Chapter), and then mushroomed to 57 preserves, with a total of 4,405 acres by 1970. All this was accomplished through the volunteer efforts of dedicated Trustees and members.

The volume of activity soon required a salaried staff member. In 1972 Charles L. Scott II was hired as Executive Director of the Chapter. He started with an annual budget of around $5,000, and a tiny office in the Bartlett Aboretum in Stamford. Five major areas for expansion were selected at that time: land acquisition, preserve management, scientific and educational activity, membership development, and an increased role in land conservation in the State.

Now, three years later, the accomplishments in these areas are evident. Acquisitions have expanded with the Chapter now embarked on its 100th project. Within the last year, dues-paying members have increased by almost 50% and a solid corps of volunteers numbers 350 in the office and field. The Student Internship Program has evolved, providing dependable scientific data on Conservancy preserves for management and at the same time affording a valuable educational experience to the students involved. A new and exciting Chapter project for this year is the Land Trust Service Bureau, which will further involve TNC in local efforts of land preservation. Throughout Connecticut, this program will require a major effort in manpower and funding.

Important to all these accomplishments was the early decision to seek more centrally located headquarters, a search which ended happily in the fall of 1974 when Wesleyan University in Middletown made available rental space on the fourth floor of its new Science Tower. As any visitor can attest, Wesleyan provided the Conservancy "a room with a view," appropriately located just down the hall from the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, ample space as a launching pad for the successful 1975 membership campaign.

Scott attributes the success of TNC in Connecticut and across the nation to its strongly singular goal of the preservation of land for biological diversity. Energies have not been dissipated in the many other areas of environmental concern. TNC has a straight line perspective, with the result that what it does, it does well. Scott is especially proud that the Connecticut Chapter was one of the first to realize the importance of stewardship; that preservation is not accomplished by acquisition alone but also demands a solid coordinated management program.

The increased workload has resulted in a full-time staff of three, who manage with the help of several office volunteers. More help is needed, and, as always, additional funding required, as TNC's Connecticut Chapter strives to meet the ongoing challenge of land preservation in an increasingly fragmented environment.

Ellen Hall

Juniper Hill (continued from page 7)

Typical of the work that students do there may be described by a few examples of what various groups have found helpful. In April and May, I have taken advanced students there to see the various forms of plant life as they emerge from the dormant state. We have used the "collecting permit" privilege of taking a specimen of each numerous plant in flower or in fruit, pressed and dried them, and learned to identify them by means of keys.

In the fall of 1974, there was a group of students who went there every Monday afternoon for two hours. We went for various reasons: one girl wanted to draw, others were interested in photography. One teacher focused on plants that are edible, poisonous, or ones that were useful to the American Indians and to the early white settlers. A list of most of the ferns and flowering plants has been compiled.

One group, led by Walter Crane, explored the Preserve, ascertained the boundaries, and put up the Conservancy signs. This took several weeks, as Mr. Crane was on crutches, and it was slow going, through the morrass, through the woods, through the snow and ice. During these expeditions, the boys found the beaver house, noted various tracks and other traces of native animals, including otters, muskrat, evidence of owls; later in the season we saw Canadian geese, ducks, herons, kingfishers, etc.

One of the projects that I hope to accomplish this coming winter is to organize a group who will want to go the Preserve during the winter months to observe and identify the dormant plants and watch for the animals that live there and might be seen under favorable circumstances.

Faculty of the lower and middle schools have been taken to the Preserve and were shown the possibilities for different kinds of field trips that could take place there. We make it clear to them, however, that care must be observed to avoid trampling through the ferns and mosses, breaking off flowers, kicking up debris, etc. We regard this area to be too close to town and too fragile to be treated as a public park. One comparatively harmless kind of study, which is attractive to some age groups, is to take up a sample of the "biological soup," looking at it in the field, noting the various invertebrates that are common there. Older students should feel free to take samples back to the lab for microscopic use. This is one of the ways that we used inclement days last winter, and it was a delight to learn how many of them rare enough not to be listed in the usual manuals are found in these waters.

When the primary jobs are done, members of our group are always eager to explore and revisit some of their favorite, private spots, where they were happiest. I know that individual enthusiasts go there from time to time, to see the developing of the seasons and to enjoy the peace that the area affords so near to town yet so remote from its noisy traffic. We are fortunate to have access to it.

Florence F. Jones

Science Department — Saint Margaret's McTernan School

Past Chairmen and Chairwomen of the Connecticut Chapter are: Richard H. Goodwin, Richard M. Bowers, Happy K. Egler, Shirley Talcott, Charles A. Clark, G. William De Sousa; Thomas A. Gaines and Geoffrey H. V. Baker.

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy welcomes over 400 new members into the fold and into the on-going quest for natural land preservation.

Our Connecticut membership now stands at a select 1200. We are proud that The Nature Conservancy holds the highest membership renewal rate of any conservation group, and we plan to continue to justify that loyalty.

And it **was** loyalty and hard work that made the Chapter's spring-summer membership drive successful. Our volunteers were unknowingly competing with other chapters across the country--and Connecticut won hands down. Satisfactory to win the in-house contest, but supremely gratifying to be joined by a host of jointly concerned conservators.

The Chapter's Board of Trustees extends a cordial welcome to you all.

The Nature Conservancy is a national non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of natural areas which are ecologically and environmentally significant. Since 1954 the Conservancy has been instrumental in preserving more than 875,000 acres in 47 states and the Virgin Islands. The Connecticut Chapter alone has now preserved more than 9,000 acres.

These landholdings form a living museum available in perpetuity for scientific enquiry and education. They include coastal and inland wetlands, mountains, farms, forests, ravines, islands, and other distinctive features of our diverse Connecticut landscape.

Join us in protecting more of Connecticut's natural heritage. What we have saved and what we will save in the next few years will be all that will remain to be passed on to future generations. There will never be another chance.

For information on membership and land donation, write The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter, PO Box MMM, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, Connecticut 06457.